



OC Literacy and Language

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Summer Edition

Hello Summer! Time to Rest, Recharge, and Reflect

As we wrap up an incredible year of literacy and language learning, we hope your summer is filled with sunshine, stories, and well-deserved rest. Whether you're lounging with a good book, traveling somewhere new (or to your favorite reading nook), or simply slowing down — take this time to nourish yourself.

We're already looking ahead to fall and can't wait to reconnect at our first 2025-26 Network Meeting on September 9 at OCDE. Until then, here's to a joyful and restorative summer break!

Summer Highlights

- Juneteenth (June 19): Celebrate freedom, history, and cultural heritage.
- Pride Month (June): Uplift inclusive voices and celebrate stories that reflect the diversity of our communities.
- National Summer Learning Week (July 15-19): A great reminder that learning never really takes a vacation!
- July 4 - Independence Day: A time to reflect on our nation's history and values — and maybe enjoy a sparkler or two!

Here's to a summer filled with books, breezes, and beach reads!



Amber Fleming-Morales

Literacy & Language
Elementary Coordinator
afleming-morales@ocde.us



Laurie Virtusio, Ed.D

Literacy & Language
Differentiated Assistance
Coordinator
lvirtusio@ocde.us



Virginia Reischl, Ed.D.

Literacy and Language
Secondary Coordinator
vreischl@ocde.us

Upcoming Literacy Offerings



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit

**WRITE TO JOY: K-12
WRITING CONFERENCE 2025**

Featured speaker: **Jen Roberts**
@jenroberts | @ocde

Write to Joy is more than a conference—it's a celebration of writing, creativity, and inspiration. Connect with passionate educators, discover fresh strategies, and ignite a love for writing in your students. Dive into hands-on workshops, vibrant discussions, and collaborative sessions that will leave you energized and equipped with practical tools. Featured speaker Jen Roberts, a National Board Certified teacher and digital pedagogy expert, will share her insights on literacy and the power of generative AI in education. Don't miss this opportunity to spark joy in writing—for you and your students!

Accepting Proposals at <https://tinyurl.com/cn3thwz7> - proposal due date is July 1, 2025

For content questions, contact Jen Roberts at jenroberts@ocde.us or Virginia Reisch at reisch@ocde.us
For registration questions, contact Carrie Kline at ckline@ocde.us

11/11/2025
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
OCDE 1000 Kahuna Drive (Building D)
Cost: Free (CA only)
\$15 per person (lunch provided)
Info: <https://ocde.us/ocde1111> or call 949.924.0000

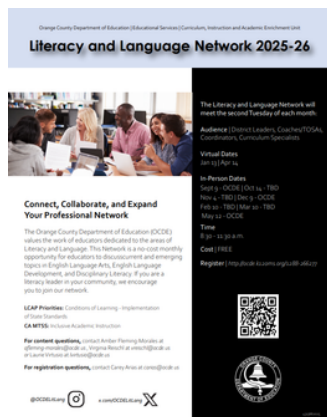
Audience: K-12 Teachers, Coaches/TOSAs, Curriculum Specialists, Literacy Coaches
LAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of State Standards
MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

Write to Joy: K-12 Writing Conference

October 11, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Register [here](#)

Write to Joy is more than a conference—it's a celebration of writing, creativity, and inspiration! Connect with passionate educators, discover fresh strategies, and ignite a love for writing in your students. Dive into hands-on workshops, vibrant discussions, and collaborative sessions that will leave you energized and equipped with practical tools. Featured speaker Jen Roberts, a National Board Certified teacher and digital pedagogy expert, will share her insights on literacy and the power of generative AI in education. Don't miss this opportunity to spark joy in writing—for you and your students! Accepting Proposals at <https://tinyurl.com/cn3thwz7> - proposal due date is July 1, 2025



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit

Literacy and Language Network 2025-26

The Literacy and Language Network will meet the second Tuesday of each month.

Audience: District Leaders, Coaches/TOSAs, Curriculum Specialists, Literacy Coaches

Virtual Dates: 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, 31st

In-Person Dates: 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th, 30th

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Cost: FREE

Register: <https://ocde.us/ocde1111>

Connect, Collaborate, and Expand Your Professional Network

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) values the work of educators dedicated to the areas of Literacy and Language. This network is a no-cost monthly opportunity for educators to discuss current and emerging topics in English Language Arts, English Language Development, and Disciplinary Literacy. If you are a literacy leader in your community, we encourage you to join our network.

LAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of State Standards
CA MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

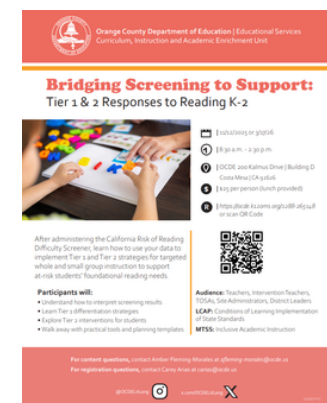
For content questions, contact Carrie Kline at ckline@ocde.us
For registration questions, contact Carrie Kline at ckline@ocde.us

2025-2026 Literacy and Language Network

2nd Tuesday of each Month

Register [here](#)

Join our no-cost monthly opportunity for educators to discuss current and emerging topics in English Language Arts, English Language Development, and Disciplinary Literacy. If you are a literacy leader in your community, we encourage you to join our network.



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit

**Bridging Screening to Support:
Tier 1 & 2 Responses to Reading K-2**

After administering the California Risk of Reading Difficulty Screener, learn how to use your data to implement Tier 1 and Tier 2 strategies for targeted whole and small group instruction to support at-risk students' foundational reading needs.

Participants will:

- Understand how to interpret screening results
- Learn Tier 1 differentiation strategies
- Explore Tier 2 interventions for students
- Walk away with practical tools and planning templates

Audience: Teachers, Intervention Teachers, TOSAs, Site Administrators, District Leaders
LAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of State Standards
MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

For content questions, contact Carrie Kline at ckline@ocde.us
For registration questions, contact Carrie Kline at ckline@ocde.us

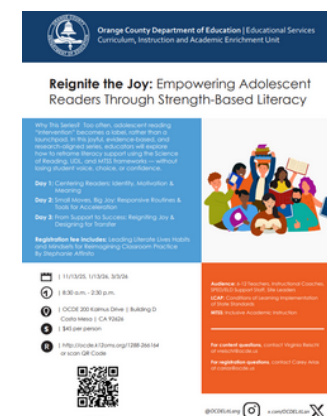
11/11/2025 11/30/25 3/20/26
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
OCDE 1000 Kahuna Drive (Building D)
Cost: Free (CA only)
\$15 per person (lunch provided)
Info: <https://ocde.us/ocde1111> or call 949.924.0000

Bridging Screening to Support

November 12, 2025 or March 17, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Register [here](#)

After administering the California Risk of Reading Difficulty Screener, learn how to use your data to implement Tier 1 and Tier 2 strategies for targeted whole and small group instruction to support at-risk students' foundational reading needs. Participants will: understand how to interpret screening results, learn Tier 1 differentiation strategies, explore Tier 2 interventions for students, and walk away with practical tools and planning templates. \$25 per person.



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit

Reignite the Joy: Empowering Adolescent Readers Through Strength-Based Literacy

Why this series? Too often, adolescent reading intervention is the "punishment" for struggling readers. This series reframes literacy support using the Science of Reading, UDL, and MTSS frameworks — without losing student voice, choice, or confidence.

Key 1: Celebrate Adolescent Identity, Interest & Learning

Key 2: Build Literacy Skills, Strategies, and Confidence

Key 3: Foster Supportive Relationships, Reading, and Learning

Registration fee includes: Learning Literacy Loss, Literacy Loss, and Learning Literacy Loss

Audience: K-12 Teachers, Coaches/TOSAs, Curriculum Specialists, Literacy Coaches
LAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of State Standards
MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

For content questions, contact Carrie Kline at ckline@ocde.us
For registration questions, contact Carrie Kline at ckline@ocde.us

11/13/25 1/13/26 3/3/26
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
OCDE 1000 Kahuna Drive (Building D)
Cost: Free (CA only)
\$15 per person
Info: <https://ocde.us/ocde1111> or call 949.924.0000

Reignite the Joy: Empowering Adolescent Readers

November 13, 2025, January 13, 2026, March 3, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Register [here](#)

Too often, adolescent reading "intervention" becomes a label, rather than a launchpad. In this joyful, evidence-based, and research-aligned series, educators will explore how to reframe literacy support using the Science of Reading, UDL, and MTSS frameworks — without losing student voice, choice, or confidence.

Save the Date

Please click on the link below to see next year's professional development trainings

2025-26 Literacy and Language Calendar



2025-26 OCDE Literacy and Language Interactive Calendar

Custom Contracts and Fee for Service Catalog

General Offerings															
Title Audience	Flyer	Format	Cost	Registration	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	
Leadership & Literacy	2024-25 Literacy & Language Network Length: Monthly Suggested Audience: Literacy District Leaders, TK-12 Coaches/TOSAs, Coordinators, Curriculum Specialists	Flyer	In person 8:30-11:30	NO COST	Registration		Sept. 9th	Oct. 14th	Nov. 4th	Dec. 9th	Jan. 13th *Virtual	Feb. 10th	March 10th	April 14th *Virtual	May 12th
Writing	Writing Across Disciplines Summit Suggested Audience: TK-12 Teachers, Coaches/TOSAs, Curriculum specialists	Flyer	In Person All Day 8:30-4:30	\$150 \$125 groups 4 or more	Registration			Oct 11							



2025
PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING
INSTITUTE



Register Now
JULY 22-24, 2025
ANAHEIM, CA

COMING FALL 2025

Orange County Writing Community of Practice Pilot

Collaborative Classroom is excited to launch cohort 1 of the Orange County Writing Community of Practice Pilot!

We are currently seeking K-5 educators to participate in a no-cost pilot of *Being a Writer*™ from August 2025 through February 2026.

Being a Writer is a comprehensive, research-based writing program that integrates process, genre, craft, and grammar instruction with explicit social skills development.

Learn more about *Being a Writer*: collabclass.link/4IMNuQJ

Why Join this Pilot?

Join a community of educators committed to student-centered writing instruction and collaborative professional growth!

Participants will receive:

Materials

Each district/organization is encouraged to have multiple participants, with one complete *Being a Writer* classroom package provided at no cost. (Additional packages available for purchase separately).

Professional Learning

Dedicated training and ongoing support to enhance their writing instruction.

Capacity Building

Resources to support schoolwide conversations on effective writing instruction.

Ongoing Support

Access to Collaborative Classroom's Learning Portal for digital resources, answers, and professional learning.

Networking Opportunities

Connect with educators across districts to strengthen writing instruction grounded in research.



SAVE THE DATE!

THE 2025 S.T.E.A.M. RACE TO SPACE READING CHALLENGE BLASTS OFF OCTOBER 3RD

RECOMMENDED BOOK LISTS + REWARD BADGES + COMPLETION CERTIFICATES & PRIZES

Bonus Readers Can Win Out-Of-This-World Opportunities
Special Zoom Sessions with Engaging Authors & with Accomplished Scientists and Mathematicians

Partnered with

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
READSTEAM.ORG

STEAM
RACE TO SPACE READING CHALLENGE



Interested in Signing Up For This Pilot?

Please contact: Rachel Solis, Sr. Manager of Educational Partnerships

✉ rsolis@collaborativeclassroom.org

📞 626-862-2299



Check out all of Teaching Books' Timely Topic Resources [Here](#)



Resources

- Need information about the upcoming Screener for Risk of Reading Difficulties, including Dyslexia? Here is the [OCDE Information Guide](#), updated frequently as new information is released. We are here to support the implementation of this initiative in any way that we can!
- Check out the latest [CDE Literacy Newsletter](#) for information on Statewide Literacy
- CDE has released [Literacy Content Blocks](#) for TK-5: The Literacy Content Blocks guide effective literacy instruction by applying the English Language Arts (ELA)/English Language Development (ELD) Framework.
- CDE also released [P-3 progression for Literacy and Language](#), aligning the PTKLF's and CA Common Core Standards.



Tech Corner

Summer Tech Tip: Turn Travel Time into Story Time!

Headed out on a road trip, flight, or just lounging poolside?

Try using free audiobook apps like [Libby](#) (linked to your public library card) or [Storynory](#) (great for younger listeners) to turn downtime into storytime.

Bonus points if you start a "family/friends book club" and chat about your summer listens over popsicles or picnic lunches!



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services

To subscribe to our newsletter scan the QR code below

